

in addition to the draw-in unit serving to draw in and tension the yarn sheet, the rolls serve the additional functions of pre-wetting means and as a wetting squeezer in that the draw-in unit conveys the yarn sheet through a first squeezing gap above which the yarn sheet is wetted and a second squeezing gap that squeezes the wetting agent from the yarn sheet. Due to this arrangement, a linear tension is exerted on the yarn sheet independently of the squeezing force of the second squeezing gap. This results in an efficient and compact unit not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

The primary reference relied on in the Office Action, DE-'962 does not disclose a draw-in unit to exert a linear tension on the yarn sheet for proper tensioning at the yarn sheet through a wetting compartment. Rather, DE-'962 discloses a first unit with a dipping or immersion roller (26) and two reversing rollers above the dipping roller, and a second unit with another dipping roller with a reversing roller above it and two sizing rollers (28). The wetting station (24) only has one squeezing gap for squeezing the wetting agent and therefore no draw-in unit to exert a linear tension on the yarn sheet. The DE-'962 patent does not teach to use a draw-in unit that multi-functionally serves as a tensioning unit, a pre-wetting means and as a wetting agent squeezer. Further, DE-'962 teaches to use two separate units with each of the units having a dipping roller (26) and the second unit having an additional wetting agent squeezer with two squeezing rollers (28).

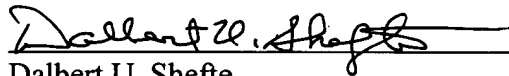
The secondary reference relied on in the Official Action, the Bisang '260 patent, does not disclose nor illustrate a draw-in unit. The '260 patent discloses the use of four pressure rollers and one deflating roller within a hollow compartment. It does not mention nor show a squeezer utilizing three rollers.

The DE-'962 patent and the Bisang '260 patent do not disclose by themselves or in combination a draw-in unit that serves the multi-functional purpose of pre-wetting and squeezer in addition to draw-in tensioning.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number show below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by current amendment captioned as "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A device for sizing a yarn sheet (3) being moved in a conveying direction(5), ~~having, comprising~~ at least one sizing compartment (2) for contacting the yarn of the sheet with sizing liquor(25), ~~wherein~~ a draw-in unit (1), ~~which preferably comprises comprising~~ three rollers (6, 7, 15), is connected upstream of the sizing compartment(2), and a squeezer (27) for the sizing is connected downstream thereof, with said draw-in unit including means for pre-wetting the yarn in the sheet with a liquor which is at least diluted ~~in respect to the sizing liquor, in particular with water,~~ with water prior to its contact with the sizing liquor(25), and ~~with~~ a wetting agent squeezer (16), ~~placed~~ between the pre-wetting means and the sizing compartment(1), ~~characterized in that~~ said three rollers forming, in the conveying direction of the yarn sheet, a first squeezing gap and a second squeezing gap, said the draw-in unit (1) is simultaneously embodied multifunctionally thereby functioning as the pre-moistening pre-wetting means (10, 14) and as the wetting agent squeezer(7, 15, 16).

2. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that a draw-in unit (1) consisting of~~ wherein said three rollers (6, 7, 15) ~~dams~~ dam up a first wetting agent supply (10) in a nip (9) above a said first squeezing gap (8) between its said first and second rollers (6, 7) in the conveying direction (5) of the yarn sheet (3), and ~~dips with at least one of its rollers, in particular the said second roller (7), dips~~ into a second wetting agent supply(14), and ~~that~~ the path of the yarn sheet (3) after the first wetting agent supply (10) leads through a said first squeezing gap(8), and then along the surface of the said second roller (7) through the said

second wetting agent supply (14) and through a said second squeezing gap(16), ~~the wetting agent squeezer.~~

3. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that the,~~ wherein said second roller (7) and the said third roller (15) of the draw-in unit (1) are arranged with their axes ~~essentially~~ generally vertically above each other.

4. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 3, ~~at least one of claims 1-3~~ wherein the yarn sheet (3) is conveyed ~~conducted~~ over a free segment ~~distance~~ (17) from the surface of said ~~the~~ third roller (15) of the draw-in unit (1) to the surface of a ~~the~~ first roller (18) of the sizing compartment(2), and the length of the free segment ~~distance~~ (17) between the departure of the yarn sheet (3) from the said third roller (15) of the draw-in unit (1) and the said first roller (18) of the sizing compartment (2) is minimized because of its compact structure.

5. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ free segment ~~distance~~ (17) is protected against heat loss by means of a cover(19).

Add the following claims:

6. The device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said second roller and said third roller of the draw-in unit are arranged with their axes generally vertically above each other.

7. The device in accordance with claim 4, wherein the yarn sheet is conveyed over a free segment from the surface of said third roller of the draw-in unit to the surface of a first roller of the sizing compartment, and the length of the free segment between the departure of the yarn sheet from said third roller of the draw-in unit and said first roller of the sizing compartment is minimized because of its compact structure.

8. The device in accordance with claim 6, wherein said free segment is protected against heat loss by means of a cover.